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ABSTRACT

This publication summarizes recent research findings on home education. In particular, the booklet examines the movement's historical background; reasons why parents choose to home school their children; home-schooling characteristics, practices, and outcomes; and the impact on children's social development. Findings indicate that the home-education population is continuing to grow. Families who home school are not significantly unusual, but they have chosen an educational route for their children that is unique. The data also show that the home schooling population is diverse. In general, however, ideological beliefs are the foundation of parents' rationales for choosing home education. Home-educated children appear to do well in terms of academic achievement, participation in nonacademic activities, and measures of social and emotional adjustment. Research, however, has been limited by the lack of causal-comparative studies. It also rarely investigates the effect of home education on aspects most important to home educators, such as spiritual development, close family relationships, and adherence to religious values. Contrains 96 references. (LMI)

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